

TASC

Technical Assistance and Services Center

Flex Program Hour Highlights

Date: August 9, 2000

Topic: CAH Kit

Facilitator: Terry Hill, TASC

Guests: Tom Sipe, Kansas Hospital Association

TASC mailed a “CAH Kit” to every State Flex Program in late July. Tom Sipe described each component of the kit, discussed the relevance of each item, and answered questions. CAH Kit documents included:

- Balanced Budget Act of 1997
- Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999
- Civil Rights Clearance for Participation in the Medicare Program
- Clarifications and Policy Guidance for the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program
- Conditions of Participation: Critical Access Program
- Contact List for State and Federal Flex Program Staff
- Critical Access Hospital Addresses and Administrator List
- Critical Access Hospital Application
- Critical Access Hospital Supporting Hospital Application
- Eligibility Certification for All Hospitals Applying for Designation and Certification as a CAH
- Guide to Survey Preparation for Critical Access Hospitals
- HCFA-1514 Hospital Request for Certification in the Medicare/Medicaid Program
- HCFA-1561 Health Insurance Benefit Agreement
- HCFA-2572 Statement of Financial Solvency
- Medicare Hospital Manual Transmittal 757
- Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program Application for Designation as a CAH
- Model Rural Health Network Agreement
- Quality Assessment for Norwest Kansas Health Alliance
- Referral / Transfer Protocols for Northwest Kansas Health Alliance
- Sample Network Agreement
- Survey Tasks and Interpretive Guidelines for Critical Access Hospitals

Some of the questions addressed:

- There was concern that the entire “Appendix W – Survey Tasks and Interpretive Guidelines for Critical Access Hospitals” was not included in the kit. The full document may be downloaded at <http://www.hcfa.gov/pubforms/pub07pdf/AP-S-W.pdf>. Appendix W begins on page 192 and the Interpretive Guidelines begin on page 241.
- HCFA Form-855 is required in only a few circumstances as listed in the CAH Kit; however some regional HCFA offices are requiring it be filled out. TASC will research which HCFA regional offices require HCFA Form-855 and inform each State.

Suggestions were made for a follow-up mailing to include a model credentialing agreement, CAH video, and basic CAH presentation. These and other helpful resources will be forwarded to states by the end of August. States have been asked to notify TASC (tasc@ruralresource.org) of the number of CAH videos they would like to receive.

CAH policy/legislation updates

Keith Mueller of the Rural Policy Research Institute gave a legislative update. It is his opinion that many of the components in the Bills introduced by Snowe, Conrad, Grams, and Roberts will not be addressed this legislative session. He indicated that laboratory reimbursement and disproportionate share payments have the best chance of being tagged on to a larger bill. However, items that are controversial and warrant discussion over and above a technical fix (i.e. “all-inclusive rate” and ambulance reimbursement) will most likely be held over into the next session.

Current issues within the CAH program have been outlined by TASC in a document that may be downloaded at www.ruralresource.org/updates.htm. Each of the Bills recently introduced to resolve the issues may also be accessed from this site.